 Johnstown Common Council

Business Meeting - Council Chambers, City Hall

Tuesday, June 21, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.

**MINUTES**

This meeting was broadcast using Facebook Live. The public was able to view the meeting from the official City of Johnstown Facebook page: City of Johnstown, New York

The proceedings of this meeting were taped for the benefit of the City Clerk; the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, therefore the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Amy Praught, Mayor

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL – Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk

IN ATTENDANCE:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Amy Praught, Mayor | Thomas Herr, City Treasurer |
| Scott Jeffers, Council Member-at-Large | Michael J. Poulin, City Attorney |
| Bradley Hayner, Council Member Ward 1 | Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk |
| Scott Miller, Council Member Ward 2 | Bruce Heberer, Fire Chief |
| Eric Parker, Council Member Ward 3 | David F. Gilbo, Chief of Police |
| Max Spritzer, Council Member Ward 4 | Christopher J. Vose, City Engineer  Diedrie M. Roemer, Director, Senior Citizens Program |

ABSENT

Bradley Hayner

PUBLIC SESSION

* John Sagan, Linden Ave – thanked the Mayor and Clerk for making, not only the agenda and resolutions but, the entire meeting documents available to the public prior to the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS – N/A

PUBLIC HEARING – N/A

APPROVE MINUTES

* May 16, 2022

Motion to approve – Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Parker

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

APPROVE CLAIMS AND ACCOUNTS

* Motion to approve, upon review – Council Member Parker

Seconded – Council Member Spritzer

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTS

* Reports are attached hereto and made part of the meeting minutes.

Discussion

DPW:

* + Parker asked Vose if there has been anything new regarding the sewer line extension. Also asked how many laws were mowed by City. Heberer stated that 55 letters went out, 41 property owners complied, 6 mowed by DPW and waiting on last 8. Spritzer asked if this was for month of May- only required to mow once in a 30 day period.

Codes:

* + Spritzer asked if Heberer could, at next meeting, provide a breakdown of emergency medical calls – he will provide a semi-annual report. Also asked for status of new pumper truck – looking at end of the year. Spritzer asked if old equipment was worth anything – yes, will use a broker to try and sell it, could bring between $30-60k. Miller asked what the broker’s fee would be – approx.7%.
  + Mayor thanked Rebecca Wandel, Codes Office and Eric Houser and crew, DPW for their coordinated efforts getting lawns mowed.
  + Heberer stated that No Mow May does not apply to the City of Johnstown. We have an Ordinance for property owners to maintain their lawns.

Treasurer:

* + Parker asked if the foreclosure process will be done by Friday. Clerk stated redemption period is June 24th but paperwork cannot be filed with the court for an additional 20 days and after that time the properties will become ownership of the city.

When will 2016 & 17 start – October

* + Spritzer: what is reality that Bond will be purchased by the end of the year? If the AUDs are completed then it could happen.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL LIAISONS

* Eric Parker; Water Dept.
  + Deposits total $930,160.62
  + T.I. Sales provided the Board with an update on the Neptune Water Meter Replacement Project.
  + Approved contract with GPI for Phase 2 & 3 Cork Center Spillway Project
* Bradley Hayner; Joint Sewer Board – Hayner was absent from meeting. Vose gave report.
  + Water Infrastructure Improvement Act Grant Update – sludge dryer
  + There was a small issue with the UV Disinfection System – been addressed and repaired
  + Received a NYSERDA Incentive a $83,340.59 Payment
  + Extend contract with Donna Renda for training of replacement

Discussion: Miller asked how much the grant would be for. Vose stated there wasn’t a figure at this point, just looking to get on the list.

* Scott Jeffers, Planning Board – No Report; no meeting
* Scott Miller, Assessor
* Grievance Day held May 24th ; notice of determinations will be mailed by end of June
* 2022 Final Roll will be filed with the City Clerk on July 1st
* Will begin on 2023 roll once 2022 has been filed with NYS

LOCAL LAW – N/A

ORDINANCE – N/A

MAYORAL APPOINTMENTS – N/A

* Fulton Railroad Properties; Brad Hayner, Eric Parker & Scott Jeffers

RESOLUTIONS

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 51. | Appoint Human Resource Manager as the Affirmative Action Officer | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Miller | Seconded by Councilmember | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: None | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 52. | Authorize renewal agreement with New York State Unified Court System for Court Security Services | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Miller | Seconded by Councilmember | Parker |
|  | Discussion: Spritzer wanted confirmation that this was a standard contract, nothing has been changed. Mayor confirmed. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
| 53. | Advertise for Public Hearing to amend Code of Ordinances – No Parking Here to Corner on N. Melcher Street. | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Parker | Seconded by Councilmember | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: None | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
| 54. | Advertise for Bids – 2022 street resurfacing | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Spritzer | Seconded by Councilmember | Jeffers |
|  | Discussion: Parker asked if there was a list of streets to be paved. Vose stated there is a list but nothing is finalized until we receive the bids. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |
| 55. | Advertise for Public Hearing – Local Law #1, 2022; amend City Charter to abolish Water Board and transfer its powers to the Common Council. | | | |
|  | Presented by Councilmember | Jeffers | Seconded by Councilmember | Spritzer |
|  | Discussion: Jeffers had a few people voice that they are not in favor of this action. Miller is for a public meeting but would like to have the time spent on changing charter to hold water board accountable. He’s concerned as to what we do next if they city loses referendum. Mayor wanted to state she isn’t doing this because of past history and administration, this is bases on what she feels necessary for the city moving forward. She wants transparency. Wants both sides to have opportunity to get their side out. If the referendum doesn’t pass, she will not bring up again during the next 3 years. Miller asked if the public comes and majority state they don’t aren’t in favor will we continue to put on ballot. Poulin stated that after hearing from the public it is then up to the Council whether or not to pass the Local Law and place on the ballot in November. Public Hearing is the first step in this process. | | | |
|  | Ayes: 4 | |  |  |
|  | Noes: 0 | |  |  |
|  | Absent: 1 (Hayner) | |  |  |
|  | Abstain: 0 | |  |  |

DISCUSSION

Parker:

* Thanked Vintage Café and all involved for the recent car show. It was well attended and a great event for downtown.
* Thanked DPW for a great job taking care of the Rail Trail

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Johnstown Firefighter & Paramedic, Jake VanEvery, was recently recognized by Assemblyman Smullen for his extraordinary contributions to our community and the countless hours he has given to ensure the safety of our neighbors. In addition to serving Johnstown, Jake has spent 14 years as a member of the Mayfield Volunteer Fire District, is Chairman of the Bannertown Fair and is on the Mayfield School Board. The Mayor presented Jake with the Citation from the Assemblyman.
2. Independence Day – City Offices closed on Monday, July 4th
3. 3rd Annual Toying Around Block Party - Saturday, July 16th 10:00 am - 6:00 pm
4. **Farmers Market –** Tuesday evenings from June 28th - October 11th 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm
5. Business Meeting – Monday, July 18th @ 6:00 p.m.
6. Spritzer wanted to congratulate 2022 JHS graduates.
7. Mayor read a statement recognizing Juneteenth and Pride month
8. Mayor gave a briefing of her six months in office and what has been accomplished:
   * New financial software
   * Creation of a new HR Manager
   * Updating the Employee Handbook
   * Training of city employees: computer use, workplace violence, sexual harassment
   * New IT company
   * New phone system – 80 % complete
   * Creation of online tax and parking ticket payments
   * Construction of a new salt barn
   * Upgrade to vehicles; fire, police and DPW
   * Gained access to the financial software in Treasurer’s office in order to complete outstanding AUDs

EXECUTIVE SESSION – N/A

MOTION TO ADJOURN at 6:36 p.m.

* Council Member Spritzer

Seconded – Council Member Miller

Discussion: None

Ayes: 4

Noes: 0

Absent: 1 (Hayner)

Abstain: 0

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie M. Allen, City Clerk